

SWOSU Art Chair Wins Award at Goddard Show

03.11.2008

Joe London

Joe London, chairman of the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Department of Art, received an honorable mention award at the recent noted annual art exhibition of the Goddard Art Center in Ardmore.

The juried competition is one of the oldest exhibitions of visual art in Oklahoma. London's work was an oil on canvas entitled "Mountain Trail".

Oil on canvas is only one of the media that London works in. Another work he is involved with is leaded glass. He has worked with stained glass for nearly 30 years and teaches a course in the department on creating leaded windows.

"Although glass and pottery are what I generally teach, I really love landscape painting, taking workshops, such as one summer before last with "Leonard Wren" on Lopez Island near Seattle," London said. "One exciting aspect of what I do and teach is the fact that one never ceases to learn."

The person that has had the most influence on London's painting is professional landscape painter Judy McCombs of Chickasha.

London has been head of the SWOSU Department of Art for the last 11 years. He also teaches pottery, leaded glass and art education courses. His teaching career has covered a range of teaching experiences, from teaching art for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to Clinton Public Schools to SWOSU.

"We've seen a lot of exciting changes in the department in the last decade," London said. "In the area of graphic design, we have increased the number of computers from one to a complete state of the art computer lab as well as developing a pottery program with equipment second to none in the state."

Another exciting addition to the SWOSU art program is the department's art gallery, located in the newly renovated Memorial Student Center. The department is in the process of opening the gallery on a scheduled basis that will feature works of students, faculty and guest artists.

London will step down as department head this summer. He has decided to concentrate on his art work and teaching. In addition to his 11 years of chair duties, he has served 10 years on a local school board and 20 years on Weatherford's hospital board.